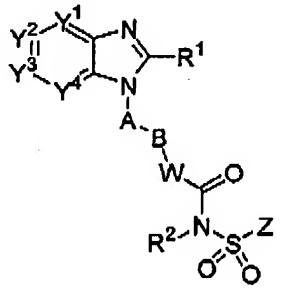
Claims as previously presented:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of a disorder or condition mediated by prostaglandin, in a mammalian subject including a human, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



(I)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L) ;

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-N(R^3)-, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl and C_{2-8} alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo,

C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- and $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

B is halo-substituted C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{3-7} cycloalkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, -O-C_{1-5} alkylene, C_{1-2} alkylene-O-C_{1-2} alkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O, S, N-OR^5 or a covalent bond ;

R^2 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, OH or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-$N(R^3)$- or Q^2- ;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R^5 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-(O=)C- or C_{1-4} alkyl-O-(O=)C- ; and

Q^2 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 5-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl,

oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-N(R^3)-, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl and C_{2-8} alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from O, N, and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 2 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy and halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic

or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-$N(R^3)$- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH-.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, R^3C(=O)N(R^4)-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-N(R^3)- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, R^3C(=O)N(R^4)-, R^3N(R^4)C(=O)-, R^3N(R^4)S(O)m-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain

having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally substituted with halo or C_{1-4} alkyl;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, R^3C(=O)N(R^4)-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-N(R^3)- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O), HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)NR^4$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing 1 sulfur atom wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L);

R^1 is C_{1-5} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-5} alkyl is optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(H)-;

Q^1 is 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S,

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system;

B is C_{1-3} alkylene optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-2} alkyl or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic

aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, nitro, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system.

6. A compound according to Claim 5, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C-L;

R^1 is C_{1-5} alkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-$N(R^3)$-;

A is phenyl;

B is C_{1-2} alkylene optionally substituted with methyl;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-10 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with chloro, bromo, methyl, nitro, $CH_3C(=O)NH$-, tBuC(=O)NH- or phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C-L;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C-L;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 19, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are selected from the group consisting of

a) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is CH and Y^4 is N;

b) Y^1 is CH, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

c) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

d) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is N and Y^4 is CH;

e) Y^1 is C(L) and Y^2, $Y^3$and Y^4 are CH;

f) Y^1, $Y^3$and Y^4 are CH, and Y^2 is C(L);

g) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is C(L);

h) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), and Y^3 and Y^4 are CH;

i) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), and Y^2 and Y^4 are CH;

j) Y^1 and Y^4 are CH, and Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L);

k) Y^1 and Y^2 are CH, Y^3 is C(L) and Y^4 is N;

l) Y^1 and Y^3 are CH, Y^2 is C(L) and Y^4 is N;

m) Y^1, Y^2, $Y^3$and Y^4 are CH;

n) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), Y^3 is CH and Y^4 is N;

o) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^4 are CH, and Y^3 is C(L);

p) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), Y^3 is N and Y^4 is CH;

q) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), and Y^2 and Y^4 are N;

r) Y^1 is C(L), Y^2 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is N; and

s) Y^2 is C(L), Y^1 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is N;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, –C(=O)NH_2, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are selected from the group consisting of

a) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is CH and Y^4 is N;

b) Y^1 is CH, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

c) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

d) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is N and Y^4 is CH;

e) Y^1 is C(L) and Y^2, $Y^3$and Y^4 are CH;

f) Y^1, $Y^3$and Y^4 are CH, and Y^2 is C(L);

g) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is C(L);

h) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), and Y^3 and Y^4 are CH;

i) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), and Y^2 and Y^4 are CH; and

j) Y^1 and Y^4 are CH, and Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L);

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, –C(=O)NH_2, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the compound is selected from:

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1h-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino] ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino] ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

N-[5-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine -3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol -2-yl]acetamide;

6-ethyl-5- (4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-5*H*-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*f*]benzimidazole;

6-chloro-5-cyano-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenylsulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino] ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl) amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]

propyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-propyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isopropyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-butyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isobutyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-neopentyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(4-biphenylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(1-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(2-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4,5-dichloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(1-benzothien-2-ylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3h-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-2-ethyl-7-methyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

6-cyano-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

4-methyl-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

7-chloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5-methoxy-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5-acetyl-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5-cyano-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-ethyl-4,5-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

4,6-dimethyl-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-[4-(5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

6-chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

4-(6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)phenethyl-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5-chloro-6-methyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-ethyl-3-{4-[2-({[({3-[hydroxy(oxido)amino]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

n-[4-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)phenyl]-2,2-dimethylpropanamide;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-bromo-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-bromophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[({4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-{[(2-{4-[2-ethyl-5-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (2-chlorophenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{5-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]-2-pyridinyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (5-methyl-2-pyridinyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(4-pyridinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5-(aminocarbonyl)-6-chloro-2-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(2-pyridinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

(1*S*)-2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{6-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-pyridinyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[2-[1-(acetylamino)-1-methylethyl]-6-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

6-chloro-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

and salts thereof.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from

6-ethyl-5- (4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-5*H*-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*f*]benzimidazole;

6-chloro-5-cyano-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenylsulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]

ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3h-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

5-methoxy-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5-acetyl-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)benzimidazole;

5-cyano-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

2-ethyl-4,5-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;

4-(6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)phenethyl-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

6-chloro-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-{[(2-{4-[2-ethyl-5-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (2-chlorophenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{5-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]-2-pyridinyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (5-methyl-2-pyridinyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(4-pyridinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5-(aminocarbonyl)-6-chloro-2-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(2-pyridinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

(1*S*)-2-{4-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{6-[6-chloro-2-ethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-pyridinyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[6-chloro-2-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

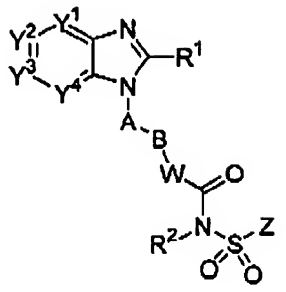
2-{4-[2-[1-(acetylamino)-1-methylethyl]-6-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

6-chloro-2-ethyl-1-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

and salts thereof.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the compound is 2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carboxyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-C}pyridine.

25. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of a medical condition in which prostaglandins are implicated as pathogens, in a mammalian subject including a human, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



(I)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N, CH and C(L) ;

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-N(R^3)-, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl and C_{2-8} alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic

aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- and $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

B is halo-substituted C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{3-7} cycloalkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, -O-C_{1-5} alkylene, C_{1-2} alkylene-O-C_{1-2} alkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O, S, N-OR^5 or a covalent bond ;

R^2 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, OH or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-$N(R^3)$- or Q^2- ;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain

having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R^5 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-(O=)C- or C_{1-4} alkyl-O-(O=)C- ; and

Q^2 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 5-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from:

pain, fever or inflammation associated with rheumatic fever, influenza or other viral infections, common cold, low back and neck pain, skeletal pain, post-partum pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, migraine, toothache, sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, fibromyalgia, synovitis, arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, osteoarthritis, gout and ankylosing sspondylitis, bursitits, burns including radiation and corrosive chemical injuries, sunburns, pain following surgical and dental procedures or bone fracture, immune and autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus; AIDS(acquired immuno deficiency syndrome), gastrointestinal cancers such as colon cancer ; cellular neoplastic transformations or metastic tumor growth; Diabetic retinopathy, tumor angiogenesis; prostanoid-induced smooth muscle

contraction associated with dysmenorrhea, premature labor, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, asthma or eosinophil related disorders, Hyperimmunoglobulinaemia, Castleman's disease, myeloma; Alzheimer's disease, sleep disorders, endocrine disturbance; glaucoma; bone loss; osteoporosis; promotion of bone formation; Paget's disease: cytoprotection in peptic ulcers, gastritis, regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis or other gastrointestinal lesions; GI bleeding and patients undergoing chemotherapy; coagulation disorders selected from hypoprothrombinemia, haemophilia and other bleeding problems; kidney disease; thrombosis; occlusive vascular disease; presurgery; and anti-coagulation.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from pain, inflammation, an inflammation associated disorder, osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis.